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THE
POOR MAN'S FRIEND.

*Homo sum, humani nihil a me
alienum puto.*

TERENCE.

(B. J. A. Daldy mple)

LONDON

1795.

Sold by P. Elmsly, opposite Southampton Street, Strand.

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PREFACE.

6th November, 1795.

IT is alleged the Propositions, in the following Sheets, would occasion an Infurrection. An Infurrection, against the *Government* and the *Mass* of the *People*! seems to be a Contradiction in terms! If *Government* has the *Mass* of the *People* on *Its side*, It is established on a *Rock*! But if *effectual* measures are *not taken* to *reduce* the *Price* of *Provisions*, will *Government* have the *Mass* of the *People* cordially on *It's side*?

It is further alleged that the only way to have plenty of every thing is to leave the *sale free*: In support of this position Mr. Fox's Speech is produced: I am not much under the influence of Authorities: Is not the *Sale now free*, and does not
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the *present Scarcity* prove the *fallacy* of the Principle, when applied to the *Necessaries of Life*? It may be allowed to have much force in matters of *choice* or *convenience*, because if the Price is made exorbitant, the use will be relinquished; and thus the Purchaser has, in his own power, a *check* against *combination*: but in things of the *first necessity* there is not an *option* of *disuse*, and therefore the Principle is grounded on an hypothetick Opinion, contradicting the Wisdom of our Ancestors, and ill adapted to the present Times of Combination and Speculation. Were there no Speculators, or Middle Men, there might be free vent at a fair price, but whilst there are Corn-Dealers, or Speculating Farmers, whose interest it is to sell as dear as possible, there can be no free vent at a fair price: for *Corn must be had!* and when it is considered that

24,964 Tons of Flour,* supposing there are *eight Millions* of People in England, would *only* supply *one week's bread*, the supposition of an *effectual Supply* from abroad is *chimerical*!

Mr. Fox justly stated that the present *high Price* was not confined to *Corn*, but extended to the Produce of the Dairy, where no cause could be alleged from the unfavourableness of the Season: Does not this serve as a further proof, that a *free vent* is *incompetent* to produce a fair price? Mr. Fox might have added the *high price* of *Coals*, and of every *other necessary* of *Life*, into his list of grievances under which the Poor labour. In regard to *Coals*, I am assured that the *Sale* in the *Pool*

* A Bushel of Flour weighs 56 lb. it makes 4 peck or 16 Quartern Loaves, each Person consumes *two* Quartern Loaves per week, therefore 8 persons consuming one bushel, 8 millions will consume 1 million of Bushels, which being 56 lb. each, amounts to 56,000,000 lb. at 20 h. or 2240 lb. per Ton, makes 24,964 Tons 5 h. 2 qr. 24 lb. at 5 sh. per Bushel, amounting to £250,000

Pool is not an *open Sale*, but that none, except Subscribers, are admitted to the Room where it is made, and even then, the Great and Oppulent Dealers, in a manner, monopolize the *Coals*, or at least fix the Price, so that the Publick lye at their mercy.

Mr. Pitt's proposition of mixing Indian-Corn, Barley, &c. with Wheat for Bread, will encrease discontent, instead of removing it; for the poorest industrious Englishman thinks he has a *right* to eat *good wheaten Bread*: and although the Scotch Peasant may be fed on oatmeal porridge, an Englishman will revolt at the Idea! a proper distinction is not made between a *Scarcity* and a *Famine*! in the *last*, Men will be glad to get Barley-Bread, Oatmeal, *Pignuts*, *Acorns*, or any thing to sustain Life, but until there is a *Famine* Englishmen will expect to have *good Bread*.

Mr. Fox justly pointed out the error of confounding what was *palatable* with what
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was *nutritive*, which last consideration was of the highest importance to the poor, whose chief *Food* is *Bread*.

The only probable way, to get any of these mixtures brought to a fair trial, is by rating them at a very low price, and keeping the *Wheaten Bread* pure and *unmixed*, marked on the Loaf W. Let all the other mixtures have distinctive Letters, R Rye, W R Wheat and Rye, I Indian Corn, W I Wheat and Indian Corn, B Barley, W B Wheat and Barley, W P Wheat and Potatoes, but it seems ridiculous to mix *good* Potatoes in bread, as they are so generally eaten by themselves, and as it is alleged the mixing them in Bread is additional labour, without any additional benefit.

If the Experiments are true, that no other grain affords *equal* nourishment as *wheat*, every attempt to adulterate wheaten bread, will be a loss to the Poor,

instead of a benefit: and although *brown bread* made with a mixture of *rye* is more palatable, I know, by my own experience, it is not so wholesome as pure wheaten bread; without taking into account the difference of nourishment.

Parson Horne, in his speech at the dinner Yesterday, as stated in the News Papers, has endeavoured not only to render Mr. Pitt's scheme ridiculous, but to represent it as part of a System to subvert the Liberties of the People, by debasing them with the food of Slaves, and ranking them as such: Thus endeavouring to raise popular discontent on the Jealousy of Freemen, inflamed by actual grievance, for such, an exorbitant price, or debasement of the quality, of their Food, will ever be deemed.

The last year's whim of Brown Bread, might serve, for a moment, to delude the People with a Notion, that the *Rich*
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were sacrificing *their Comforts* for the *benefit* of the Poor: But to have answered that Purpose, it should have been confined to the Families of the Rich: the Poor were not satisfied; they complained, that the *Bread* afforded *less nourishment*, to which the *abatement* in price bore no proportion. It was stated an eleventh part of *wheat* was saved by this admixture of Bran: Indeed when we consider the matter fairly, since Bran affords *no nourishment*, the Poor Man gains nothing by this Saving of Wheat, but on the contrary is obliged to buy *Bran*, which he does not want, and gets no more *nourishment* from this *unpalatable Bread*, than his money would have purchased in *good Bread*, if *no Bran* had been put into the *Bread*.

May it not be worth attention whether instead of adulterating Bread it might not be better to substitute *Barley Broth*, without Bread, as a Sunday's dinner to the

Poor as well as to the Rich; Seven weeks in the Year would be a saving of 875,000 Quarters, or 7 millions of Bushels of *Flour*; at 5 sh. per bushel, amounting to £1,750,000 per annum, or above 174,000 Tons *importation*, were such an *importation possible*.

The Severity of Laws to restrain mobs, although very proper in itself, should *follow* the *relief* of the People's *distress*, instead of *going before it*: For when the inherent Spirit of Englishmen is considered, It must be obvious, that *Reason must attend severity* to make it *effectual*: which is the true foundation of *Whig-Government*: Every other mode will be attended, in all human probability, with fatal consequences.

I am as zealously attached to His Present Majesty, as any one of His Subjects, from a full conviction that it is His *wish*, to reign the *Father* of a *Free* and *Happy People*! and I am, from a retrospect of
History

History, and a View of Man in almost every state of civilization, enthusiastically devoted to our present excellent Constitution of Government, in King, Lords, and Commons, by which, each Estate has a *full and effective negative* to every Law proposed: and by which, the *voice* of the People, may be freely conveyed, individually or conjointly, to The Throne, or to Either House of Parliament!

Too far advanced in Life, and too infirm in Constitution, to have Ambition; enjoying an honourable Competency the reward of Publick Services; Feeling warmly for my Country, but without an interest, or passion, inciting to any change in Government; although I am not *represented*, without a wish, to, what is called, a *Reform* in parliament, finding that the present Constitution affords me every security I can desire, and every power an Individual can enjoy, of giving his opinion
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to the Publick, I lament to see the Bill brought into the House of Lords, for the *alleged* protection of His Majesty's Person! and Security of the Constitution! even if it be supposed, and the favourable opinion I entertain of the Ministry obliges me to suppose, that this Bill is only meant to afford an opportunity to His Majesty, by *His Veto*, to testify that He disdains to *abridge* the *Liberties* of His Loving and Faithful Subjects, for any pretended Security to His own Person---in case the probable conjecture of the Duke of Bedford should take place, a full remonstrance, against the Bill, from the Mass of the People, may stop the Bill, in its progress, before it comes to His Majesty's *Veto*.

Is it wise to give any effect to the misrepresentations of a few miscreants, by affording a Suspicion that either House of Parliament is disposed to abridge the
 Liberties

Liberties established at the Revolution, when the Stuart Family was expelled from the Throne, by introducing Laws of Treason, grounded on the principles of arbitrary and prostitute Times!

Laws made for *Individuals* and not for *Crimes*, will always produce the most violent and sanguinary consequences! To day they may be construed to affect the Duke of Bedford, Lord Lauderdale, Parson Horne, Apothecary Jones, Lecturer Thelwall, or Shoemaker Hardy; to-morrow Mr. Pitt, Lord-Chan. Wedderburn, Lord Hawkesbury, Secretary Dundas, Justice Bond, or Constable Stockdale.

But, for sake of argument, let us, for a moment, admit This Bill is passed into an Act. It would be nugatory unless the *Liberty* of the *Press* was totally abolished! In the present state of Literature it would require a *Legion* of *Licencers*! Every Newspaper, before printing,
must

must be read with the eye of a Political Critic, lest, in some Advertisement of a quack Medicine, there may be a *Nostrum* for mending the *Constitution* or Government! The proceedings of the French Assemblies must on no account be inserted, lest they should become *constructive treason* by *innuendo*; a famous trial will occur to every one's recollection when by innuendo Fanny Murray was said to mean the Virgin Mary! The *true* Friends to His Majesty will lament that mistaken Friends should hazard to bring back the turbulence which misguided zeal then produced: Our mild and equal Laws will be found competent to govern rational Englishmen, when not inflamed by the Jealousy of Freemen! *Liberty* is the *Idol* of Englishmen, to which, if it is deemed necessary, they will sacrifice *Life*, *Loyalty* and every thing that is *dear*! Although nothing else, but a competition
between

between their *Liberties* and Prerogative, will ever shake their attachment to their Sovereign! In such a Contest it would be dust on the Ballance!

Not only the *Liberty* of the *Press* must be abolished, to give effect to such a Law, but all *our own*, as well as *antient* Authors, must be destroyed with a gothic fury; nay even the BIBLE itself! for all of them will yield matter for constructive Treason.---for example

Put not your trust in Princes. BIBLE.

To your Tents, O Israel, now see to thine own house, David. BIBLE.

Dulce, & decorum est pro Patria mori. HORACE.

Si Violandum est Jus? regnandi causa violandum est. CÆSAR.

Moriens, Dumnorix dixit, se esse liberum, liberæque civitatis. CÆSAR.

To reign, is worth ambition. MILTON.

—Liberty to thee is owing;
What e'er of Bliss is worth bestowing;
Delights, still varied, and divine,
Sweet Goddess of the Hills are thine.

BROOKE.

—When

—When Liberty is gone,
Life grows insipid, and has lost its relish.

ADDISON.

These and a thousand other examples that might be quoted; would all come within the wide pale of constructive Treason by innuendo.

Let us for a moment consider what would be the probable consequence to His Majesty, from such a Law; Instead of enjoying Himself like a *Man* as He now does, secured by the Affection of His People; He must at all times be surrounded with Guards, like an Eastern Despot! and how ineffectual Guards are, is notorious, for the insults of the few miscreants, that gave occasion to this Bill, happened when His Majesty was surrounded with *Guards*, in an *unusual* manner; indeed When the undaunted Spirit of Englishmen is considered, and how every thing like *compulsion* provokes them

them, to *court danger*, by *defiance*, It would not be surprizing, if it should be found, that the Stones thrown against His Majesty's Carriage, in a manner so indecent and flagitious, proceeded from the sight of Guards unusually placed: for had the Malevolence of the few miscreants excited them to *Injury*, instead of *Insult*, what could have been done? The Persons are still unknown, notwithstanding the Proclamation offering a Reward for the Discovery: but the generous Spirit of Englishmen makes them abhor the idea of *murder*! and by that alone can any Man's Life be protected! The *Murderer* is an *outcast*, even of *his own Society*, in this Life, could he harden his heart against the *DIVINE Wrath*, which will, most certainly, at length bring him to condign Punishment.

After His Majesty's Return a Person was carried on Men's Shoulders, as it
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were in triumph, across the Parade towards the Horse-Guards, If that Person could be discovered, it is possible some Judgement might be formed, who were the Instigators? I was elevated at too great a distance to distinguish the Person of the Man, supposed to be carried in triumph, and although the fact is true, that a Man was carried across the Parade, the Inference may be false, that he was carried in Triumph: If he was carried in Triumph, probably he was attended by the whole of the riotous mob, and I do not think the mob of raggamuffins, that attended him, was *fifty* in number: but not knowing that any Insult had been offered to His Majesty, I took little notice; as I thought it might be one of the Ephemeris of Mob-popularity, who will soon sink into insignificance, if not exalted into consequence by prosecution.

Great

Great pains have been taken to *magnify* the *Numbers* who swarmed, like a cluster of Bees, around His Majesty's Carriage: the intention is obviously to prejudice the People in remote parts of the Country, with an opinion that it was the *multitude* of the Inhabitants of London, who crowded out, to testify their discontent: That the Numbers have been greatly exaggerated I am confident, for the Elevation of my position enabled me to see the whole Swarm, in one view: I took notice, at the time, to a Friend, that the Croud was composed in great part by *Women*, many with *Children* in *their arms*; The numbers may be determined with competent precision, for I am perfectly convinced, from my observation of the Swarm, That it might all have been comprised on the Space of the Parade, between the Admiralty Garden Wall and the Treasury: the Space occupied by a Man being easily ascertainable,

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The size of the Parade will determine how many it can hold.

The coercive nature of the Bill will tend to confirm the false representation concerning the numbers of discontented Persons about London; for it will naturally be said, if the Numbers of discontented are really *so few*, what necessity can there be for rigorous Laws: if These Meetings are worth notice, why do not the Multitudes of His Majesty's faithful Subjects, drown the clamours of Disaffection, by the Acclamations of Loyalty! The best mode of treating those Assemblies is by Contempt, if the Conduct of any Individual does not bring him under the lash of the present Laws; Force will neither produce conviction, nor stop discontent; but the deluded multitude, when left alone, will soon tire, of attending Spouting Political Clubs, as of every other whim of the day.

It

It seems, on every view, that it would have been better, such a Bill had never been introduced; but since it has been introduced, the best way to get rid of it, appears to be, by a message from His Majesty.

It is alleged, that the number of People in *debt* makes violent measures necessary, for the preservation of the Constitution; as such Men are *desperate*. It must be observed *Debts* are of two kinds, Debts of *convenience* where the Property of the *Debtor* is amply sufficient to answer all claims upon him, but cannot be *converted immediately* into *money* without very great inconvenience; Such *Debtors*, so far from being in desperate circumstances, have a double tie upon them to preserve the present order of Things. Debts of *Necessity*, where there is no responsible Property, will indeed make men *desperate*: but do the *Mass* of the *People* come under this description? Does it not rather refer
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to the higher Orders? and may it not be fairly urged, that such Men are *more dangerous* to the Constitution, if They obtain a seat in either House of Parliament, than in Publick Meetings?

There is some appearance of Impropropriety, in an Individual dictating his opinions to the Publick: I meant that these Thoughts should have gone into the World without a name; but, on a retrospect, there seems to be a call to avow them with the name of

No. 62, High Street,
Mary-le-bone,

A. Dalrymple.

16th November, 1795.

P. S. The measure of giving a Bounty to Merchants on the importation of Corn, if that Corn was to be delivered to the Publick at a fixed price, might have a good effect on the markets; but Merchants importing it to *sell* for *their own account*, will do no good to the Poor: The Government ought to purchase all they can, and leave Merchants to buy what the Government cannot get.

2416

31 Oct. 1795.

THE critical situation of this Country, from the late exorbitant, and present high, price of Corn; truly demands the earliest, and most considerate, attention of Parliament.

It must be the wish of every One, that the poorest Cottager in this Kingdom shall, by his Industry, be able to obtain *plenty* of wholesome food, for himself and family.

The Strength of a Country is in the populousness of the lower Classes of the People; but it is in vain to expect an increase of People, without plenty of food.

Every attempt, effectually to remove the distress, without determining whether the Scarcity was *wholly actual*, or *partly artificial*, will fail.

If *wholly actual*, it will be necessary to enquire, what measures can be taken to prevent

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the like Calamity, by investigating the Causes: If it proceeds from the *consumption* exceeding the *growth*; That can, for the present, only, be remedied by *importation*, of a *quantity* of *Grain* to *compleat* the *deficiency*, at the Publick Expence, if necessary.

But how can it be known, but by knowing the Quantity of Grain *produced*, and the *quantity required* for *consumption*, whether the *consumption* exceeds the *growth* or not?

The importation of *Grain* is very ruinous to a Country, as tending to depreciate the value of Land, and consequently lessen the Resources, to be drawn from the People at large; at the same time that it *drains* off, the *actual wealth* of the Kingdom, in a manner the most destructive.

But, notwithstanding the many and solid objections against the measure; It may become absolutely necessary for the *sustenance* of the People: when neither the *expence*, nor any other consideration, can be admitted for a moment to oppose it.

But

But altho' this *necessity* of *importation*, if it does exist, must supersede every other consideration ; It is highly expedient, to take every means, to make it but a *temporary measure*, by bringing more Land into cultivation of *Wheat*, if the *consumption* ever exceeds the growth.

It is alleged that this is *proven* by the experience of many years past, as there has been a constant *Importation* and no *Exportation* : If the Fact was *certain* ; the Inference might be admitted ; but there may have been an *Exportation*, although the Custom-House Books do not shew such *Exportation*, since the Bounty being only payable on *exportation*, when Corn is at a *low-price*, the price of *Wheat*, at Foreign Markets, may have induced a clandestine exportation without Bounty ; not to mention what has been consumed in *Distillery*.

On the other hand, It is observed, that *Wheat* was brought to *Market*, when the Price became *exorbitant* ; not only *Foreign*
A 2 *Wheat*,

Wheat, but *Engliſh Wheat*; *Wheat* being ſold, at however high a price, proves the *exiſtence* of *Wheat* to ſell, the *Stock* of which was not encreaſed by the exorbitancy of the Price.

This Country is, at preſent, a Country of *univerſal Speculation*: It is not confined to the Merchant, but, ſince the extenſion of Farms, The Farmers are in general *Speculators*; the Farmer, who had a ſmall Farm, was obliged to bring his Grain to Market, as ſoon as poſſible, in order to pay his Rent, ſupport his Family, and carry on his buſineſs; But the great Farms, although perhaps more productive, enable the Farmers to withhold their Grain 'till the Market riſes to their wiſh, and the general diſpoſition to ſell for the *utmoſt* they can, muſt be notoriously obvious to Every Man of Obſervation, not confined to the mere Farmer only, but to extend equally to Gentlemen of Property; with ſome Exceptions, it muſt be allowed, in both Claſſes.

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The Argument, therefore, that the High Price *proves* the *Scarcity*, does not appear, by any means, conclusive; especially as the *High Price*, at present, cannot proceed from *want* of *Grain*, since the Crop, however small, cannot have been consumed by *this time*: and consequently the Price is occasioned by the *Speculation*, of what *will* be the *deficiency hereafter*.

It is alleged Corn cannot be threshed fast enough to supply the Markets; but Engines, for threshing Corn, might have been generally introduced; and it is a disgrace to the Government of a Country, to permit Mobs to destroy those Engines adapted to relieve the Common Wants; it is the great advantage of a Civilized Country, that it can call in the assistance of Engines, when Hands are employed, in the Army and Navy, for the protection of the Country.

That the extensive Commons in England would admit of much additional Land being

brought into cultivation, is a self-evident Truth; If more Land, at present Common, is brought into cultivation, It may be expedient to consider, whether the Cottagers, or small Freeholders, would not be more benefited by the *sale* of their equivalent, and formation of the Produce into a *Fund*, for supplying them with bread and coals at a moderate rate; whenever they cannot supply themselves more to their satisfaction.

It is also proper, whenever Enclosures are made, that they should not be admitted to encroach upon Cottages, or the small Ponds, and Greens adjacent, where Geese resort.

It would also be conducive to the general welfare, if Cottages were erected at the expence of the Parish, whenever a Man requires it for establishing a Family, and a bit of ground for a Garden, to each Cottage, should be allotted, for the convenience of the Family, where they might cultivate Potatoes, or other Vegetables.

There

There are Some Gentlemen who consider Cottagers as a *nuisance*, but whatever trivial inconveniences they may feel, or imagine, The well-being of the State requires Government to hold out its fostering hand, to this valuable rank of Men.

It is said Cottagers have no claim to *any equivalent*, or recompence, on enclosing Commons, as the *Right* of Commonage is *only* in the *Freeholder*, and the Cottager enjoys it merely from indulgence: If this is the Principle on which Enclosures of Commons are made, it is not surprizing that they should be productive of so much discontent: It should be remembered *long Possession* is a right on which *all Property* hinges.

The People have often felt the necessities of the State, real or supposed, press upon Them; It would be wise to shew, that the Poorest of their quiet and industrious Members are the Objects of the Parental Care of Government.

If the late Scarcity was, in any degree, occasioned by the barbarous and inhuman avarice of Holders-up-of-Corn, wholesome Laws are necessary, to prevent the distress of the People, by such miscreants, who are equally deaf to the cries of the Poor, and to the dictates of that benevolent Religion, which they profess, and are only to be moved by the *severity* of the Law.

But here again, how can knowledge be obtained? but by an Investigation of the quantity of Grain actually in the Country, and the Number of People to consume it.

Suppose

For all these reasons, proper Persons, being Members of either House of Parliament, voluntarily offering themselves, be appointed by His Majesty, by Act of Parliament, to be Commissioners for Inspection of Provisions, which Commissioners are without delay to make choice of competent Persons, at a reasonable recompence

pence, to be joined to the Clergyman of every Parish, to take an account of the Inmates of every House, their sex, and age, and of the quantity of Grain, other than for their own use and consumption, in possession of every Person in that Parish, whether threshed, or unthreshed, ground or unground; The unthreshed to be determined by admeasure-ment of the Stack, or Barn, without charge, and at the least possible inconvenience to the Proprietor: and the expected produce to be calculated as well as may be. The quantity of threshed Corn, as well as Flour, to be taken, from the estimate of the Proprietor, to the best of his knowledge and belief, of which he shall make oath, if required: in case of the Proprietor's refusal to give such an Estimate, the Corn, or Flour, may be measured.

Every Person so possessing Grain, or Flour, &c. shall give an account to the Clergyman, once every Week at the least, of the quantity *sold*, the *price* sold at, and

and to *whom sold*; and Bakers of the quantity *expended*; which shall be entered by the Clergyman, or His Clerk, in two printed Papers, to be supplied, for the Purpose, by the Commissioners of Inspection; One of which papers shall be affixed to The Church Door for General Information; The other transmitted to The Commissioners by the General Post. Frank-free.

In like ^{er}manner, all Persons purchasing the necessaries of Life, other than for their own use and consumption, shall give to the Clergyman, once every week at the least, An Account of the *Quantity bought*, the *Price* bought at, and of *whom* bought. And all Persons *selling* the necessaries of Life, except by *retail*, which shall be understood to comprehend every quantity not more than a Man's Load, shall give an Account of the quantity *sold*, to *whom* sold, and the *Price* sold at, which Accounts shall, in like manner, be entered in two
printed

printed Papers and disposed of, in the manner before mentioned.

In case either the *Purchaser* or *Seller* does not belong to the Parish, He shall give his *name*, *abode*, and *designation* upon oath to the Clergyman, who shall be empowered to administer the oath accordingly.

The Commissioners of Inspection shall appoint Committees, of their own Members, for every County, which Committees may, from time to time, add, as their Associates, any other Persons, in the Commission of the Peace, or of respectable Characters in the County; such Associates, voluntarily offering themselves, to be chosen by Ballot of the Members of the Committee for the County, after, at least, a Weeks notice given to the said Members, in case the whole Committee are not present: these Associates may be removed by ballot of 2-3ds of the Committee for The County.

No

No Commissioner, or Associate, to have any perquisite, or emolument from his office; as no Person, unwilling gratuitously to bestow his labours for the benefit of the Poor, can be a fit Person for this trust.

The Committees with their Associates shall propose as soon as may be after the Quantity of Grain on hand is determined, a *Maximum Price* in each County, or District if thought requisite, for *Every Month*, or *Week*, in the Year, which *Maximum*, if approved by the *Commissioners of Inspection*, shall be established, and it shall be *Felony* without benefit of Clergy, to sell at a *higher price* than the *Maximum*, which shall be affixed at a *liberal price* to the *Grower*, not less than shillings, nor exceeding shillings, per Winchester Bushel: the *monthly*, or *weekly*, increase in the *Maximum* to be rated by Interest at 5 per Cent per Annum, and a full Allowance for Waste.

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The *Maximum* is not to be construed as fixing the Current Price of Grain, but only as preventing an exorbitant Price.

Whenever the Grain, in any County, shall appear to be so diminished, as not to amount to the *consumption of three months*, application shall be made, by the Committee of the County, to the Commissioners of Inspection, for a Supply.

After the 1st June, 1796, The Commissioners may require all the Grain, &c. in possession of any Individual, above what may be reasonably reserved for his own consumption, on paying the *highest Maximum*.

The Bounty at present payable on exportation of Corn, shall be paid by the Commissioners, or Committees, on all British Wheat delivered to them at shillings.

Whatever Foreign Wheat is imported, shall be limited to shillings *below* the *Maximum* Price of English Wheat; and
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at that rate all Foreign Wheat imported at Publick Expence, or purchased for the Publick, shall be issued, without any regard to the Price at which it was bought.

Every Person having more than two Children living with the Family, shall, if required, be served, at the Publick Expence, with Bread for every Child above *two* at the rate of 2 Quartern Loaves per week for each.

The Commissioners of H. M. Treasury to supply to the Commissioners of Inspection, the Sums necessary for carrying this Act into Effect, and shall be authorised to issue Exchequer Bills to that amount, to be provided for by Parliament.

All Persons, opposing the execution of this Act, shall be held guilty of a high crime and misdemeanour, and punished for such Offence on conviction.

As

As it is equally necessary to take effectual measures, by the speedy and rigorous execution of Justice on Delinquents, for preventing riotous Mobs, from impeding the transportation of Grain, from Place to Place, or otherwise molesting His Majesty's peaceable Subjects in the legal prosecution of their business, and enjoyment of their rights: A Special Commission should as soon as may be within the Week after such riotous mobs, if any occurs, be held for the trial of Persons so accused, and if found guilty, the Sentence carried into immediate Execution.

That no time may be lost in securing a sufficiency of Grain, The Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury should be immediately authorised to contract for ample provision of Wheat in Foreign Parts, that this Country, if The Quantity imported be more than wanted for home Consumption, and the Distillery, may become the Granary to supply other Countries.

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The Foreign Corn should be subjected to the inspection of Physicians, to be assured that it is fit for food: and the Commissioners of Inspection should be authorised to order experiments to be made, for meliorating such as is deemed unfit for bread, that it may be found whether it can be safely used in any other way for food of Man: or for the food of Animals, instead of other Grain, besides Wheat, applicable to the sustenance of Man.

It will be expedient to take every precaution that Grain, brought from Foreign Parts, shall be properly prepared before Shipping; and well stowed, on board, to prevent its heating. Perhaps Men of War without their guns, and under-masted, might be conveniently used, for bringing Corn.

2d Nov. 1795.

